

1 This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:
2

3 **Listing of Claims:**
4

5 1. (original) A method for broadcasting an announcement signal,
6 comprising:

7 broadcasting a network identifier signal that uniquely identifies a computer
8 network;

9 broadcasting an authorizer signal that identifies an authorizer network
10 address on the computer network, the authorizer network address being associated
11 with an authorizer that is configured to authorize mobile clients to utilize the
12 computer network; and

13 broadcasting a verifier signal that identifies a verifier network address on
14 the computer network, the verifier network address being associated with a verifier
15 that is configured to verify data packets sent by mobile clients utilizing the
16 computer network.
17

18 2. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each signal is
19 broadcast periodically.
20

21 3. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network
22 identifier signal, the authorizer signal and the verifier signal are broadcast together
23 in an announcer signal.
24
25

1 4. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the authorizer
2 network address and the verifier network address are Internet Protocol (IP)
3 addresses.

4
5 5. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the verifier is
6 preferred verifier, and the method further comprises substituting a network address
7 of an alternate verifier for the network address of the preferred verifier.

8
9 6. (original) The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising
10 determining if the preferred verifier has reached a load threshold, and wherein the
11 substituting is performed if the load threshold is reached.

12
13 7. (original) The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising
14 detecting a preferred verifier failure, and wherein the substituting is performed if
15 the preferred verifier fails.

16
17 8. (canceled).

18
19 9. (canceled).

20
21 10. (canceled).

22
23 11. (canceled).

1 12. (canceled).

2
3 13. (canceled).

4
5 14. (canceled).

6
7 15. (canceled).

8
9 16. (canceled).

10
11 17. (canceled).

12
13 18. (canceled).

14
15 19. (original) One or more computer-readable media containing
16 computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, perform the
17 following steps:

18 transmitting a network identifier signal that identifies an associated
19 network;

20 transmitting an authorizer signal that identifies an authorizer on the
21 network, the authorizer being configured to authorize client access to the network;
22 and

23 transmitting a verifier signal that identifies a verifier, the verifier being
24 configured to verify that data packets transmitted to the network are transmitted
25 from clients that have been authorized to access the network.

1 **20.** (original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 19, wherein the network identifier signal, the authorizer signal and the
3 verifier signal are transmitted together as an announcer signal.
4

5 **21.** (original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
6 claim 19, wherein the verifier signal further comprises a network address for the
7 verifier.
8

9 **22.** (original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
10 claim 19, wherein the authorizer signal further comprises a network address for the
11 authorizer.
12

13 **23.** (original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
14 claim 19, wherein the verifier is a preferred verifier, and wherein the computer-
15 executable instructions further include computer-executable instructions that, when
16 executed on a computer, perform the additional step of changing the verifier signal
17 to identify an alternate verifier.
18

19 **24.** (original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
20 claim 23, wherein the verifier signal is changed to identify the alternate verifier if
21 the preferred verifier fails.
22
23
24
25

1 **25.** (original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 23, wherein the verifier signal is changed to identify the alternate verifier
3 when a load threshold is reached by the preferred verifier, the load threshold being
4 the highest rate of use that is acceptable for the preferred verifier.

5
6 **26.** (original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
7 claim 19, wherein the network identifier signal, the authorizer signal and the
8 verifier signal are transmitted periodically.

9
10 **27.** (canceled).

11
12 **28.** (canceled).

13
14 **29.** (canceled).

15
16 **30.** (canceled).

17
18 **31.** (canceled).

19
20 **32.** (canceled).

21
22 **33.** (canceled).

23
24 **34.** (canceled).

25

1 **35.** (canceled).

2
3 **36.** (canceled).

4
5 **37.** (canceled).

6
7 **38.** (original) A system, comprising:
8 a network identifier;
9 an authorizer identifier;
10 a verifier identifier;
11 a signal generator configured to generate a signal that communicates the
12 network identifier, the authorizer identifier and the verifier identifier.

13
14 **39.** (original) The system as recited in claim 38, further comprising
15 memory that stores the network identifier, the authorizer identifier and the verifier
16 identifier.

17
18 **40.** (original) The system as recited in claim 38, further comprising a
19 receiver configured to accept the network identifier, the authorizer identifier and
20 the verifier identifier as input data.

21
22 **41.** (canceled).

23
24 **42.** (canceled).

1 **43.** (canceled).

2
3 **44.** (canceled).

4
5 **45.** (new) A method implemented at least in part by a computer,
6 comprising:

7 broadcasting an announcer signal identifying a network and a network
8 address of an authorizer in the network;

9 receiving at the network address of the authorizer and from a mobile client
10 that received the announcement signal and is not yet authorized to access the
11 network, a request to obtain authorization to access the network;

12 transmitting, responsive to receiving the request, an authorization key
13 indicating that the mobile client is authorized to access the network and enabling
14 the mobile client to create a tag using the authorization key;

15 receiving, responsive to the transmitting and from the mobile client, data
16 packets having the tag;

17 verifying that the tag is valid based on the authorization key; and

18 forwarding the data packets having the tag to the network.

19
20 **46.** (new) The method of claim 45, wherein the announcer signal
21 further comprises a network address of a verifier in the network and the acts of
22 receiving data packets, verifying, and forwarding are performed by the verifier.
23
24
25

1 47. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein the network comprises
2 subnets, a first subnet accessible through the first network address of the first
3 authorizer and a second subnet accessible through a second network address of a
4 second authorizer.

5
6 48. (new) The method of claim 47, further comprising receiving, at the
7 second network address of the second authorizer and from the mobile client, data
8 packets having the tag, and forwarding the data packets having the tag to the
9 network without having to transmit the authorization key to the mobile client.

10
11 49. (new) A method implemented at least in part by a computer,
12 comprising:

13 broadcasting a first announcer signal identifying a first subnet of a network
14 and a first network address of a first authorizer in the first subnet of the network;

15 broadcasting a second announcer signal identifying a second subnet of the
16 network and a second network address of a second authorizer in the second subnet
17 of the network;

18 receiving at the first network address of the first authorizer and from a
19 mobile client that received the first announcement signal, a request to obtain
20 authorization to access the network;

21 authorizing the mobile client access to the first subnet of the network;

22 receiving at the second network address of the second authorizer and from
23 the mobile client responsive to the mobile client receiving the second
24 announcement signal, a request to obtain authorization to access the network; and

25 authorizing the mobile client access to the second subnet of the network.